

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/815,913

Applicant(s)

OATWAY, GERRY

Examiner

Ruth C. Rodriguez

Art Unit

3677

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed on 13 September 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9,6-8,14, 11,12 and 15-19 that will be renumbered 1-12 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 9, Hobbs discloses a clamp securing a section of rope that comprises a link, a ring and a finger. The link is formed of a single piece of material that is bent to form two side members, a cross member and an apex. The ring is formed from a single piece of material that is bent to form a first end, a second end and two longitudinal side pieces. The ring is slidably engaged with the link. The finger extends from the ring in a direction towards the apex and terminating at an end. Hobbs fails to disclose that the link is formed from a single piece of wire and that the ring is formed from a single piece of wire. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the link made of wire bent to form two side members joined in one end by a cross member and having an apex at the other end and the ring being made of wire bent to form a ring with two ends, two pieces of longitudinal pieces and finger extending from the ring.

For claim 14, Hobbs discloses a clamp securing a section of rope that comprises a link, a ring and a finger. The link has two side members connected at a first end by a cross member and attached at the other end at an apex. The ring is slidably engaged with the link. The ring has a first end and a second end joined together by two longitudinal side pieces. The finger extends from one of the longitudinal side pieces of the ring towards an apex of the ring. The ring and the finger are integral. Hobbs fails to

disclose that the finger and the ring are made of wire. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the ring being made of wire bent to form a ring with two ends, two pieces of longitudinal pieces and finger extending from the ring.

For claim 16, Hobbs discloses a clamp securing a rope that comprises a link, a ring and a finger. The link has two side members connected at a first end by a cross member and attached at the other end at an apex. The ring has a first end and a second end joined together by two longitudinal side pieces. The ring is slidably engaged with the link such that the two side members of the link are inward of the first and second ends of the ring. The finger extends from a first of the longitudinal side pieces of the ring in a direction towards the apex of the link. Hobbs fails to disclose that the finger is disposed between the two side members of the link. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have the finger disposed between the two side members of the link while the ring is slidably attached to the link with the two side members of the link inward of the first and second ends of the ring instead of having the finger disposed next to one of the side members.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Leisner (US 977,642), Sova (US 2,441,336), Long (US 2,962,998), Hobbs (US 3,678,543), Wagner (US 4,019,609), Bowker (US 4,678,059) and Potter (US 5,217,092) are cited to show state of the art with respect to clamps securing a rope that have some of the features being claimed by the applicant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C. Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-6640.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

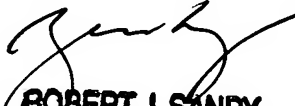
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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.  
For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should  
you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic  
Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ruth C. Rodriguez  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3677

rcr  
October 16, 2006



**ROBERT J. SANDY**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**